

9 Dec 59

1 December 1959

11-9577

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director (Plans)    
SUBJECT : Stefan BANDERA's Death and PP Exploitiation Thereof

1. This memorandum is for your information only.

2. On 15 October 1959 in Munich, Germany, Stefan BANDERA died a victim of cyanide poison. German police investigation has ruled out suicide, but has not yet solved the crime. Investigation and speculation continues.

3. News items giving various versions of his death were carried in many Western European and American publications in October. Coverage in emigre press has naturally been wide and continuous throughout November. The Communist Press inside and outside the Soviet Bloc also mentioned the death prominently, but suggests that the German Intelligence Service killed BANDERA.

4. A factual script on his death and biography was included in our taped Ukrainian program scheduled for broadcast   from Athens in October. Because   transmissions to the USSR were temporarily suspended in October, pursuant to the ZHUKOV-ALLEN talk, this material has not been broadcast. SR emigre agents and case officers discussed exploitation of this murder from many angles, but elected to wait until a full report had been received from Munich. A full report has not been received since the police investigation is still in progress.

5. The SR Division has been reluctant to launch wide-spread PP press play labeling BANDERA's death a Soviet deed for several reasons, among which are the following:

a. Until the German Police investigation of suspects has been completed, it could be premature to make allegations which the German Police investigation might later contradict, for

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example, as matters now stand, pure emigre vengeance might have been the motive for murder.

b. The implication of RIS omnipotence and omnipresence in this unsolved crime is naturally damaging to Ukrainians' morale at home and abroad.

c. SR is formulating Western press articles about BANDERA's death for eventual use. Already planned for inclusion are comparisons between BANDERA's death and the assassinations of the previous figureheads of Ukrainian nationalism, Simon PETLIURA (shot in Paris in 1926) and Evhen KONOVALETS (handed a package containing a bomb in Brussels in 1938).

6. According to the best available evidence, BANDERA was apparently attacked and poisoned by two unidentified men between the frontdoor of his apartment house and the third floor door to his apartment.

Chief  
Soviet Russia Division

cc: DDCI